THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. *SAIFUDDIN SOZ*): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Public hearing has been made mandatory for 29 categories of developmental projects under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification of 1994 through a Gazette Notification dated the 10th April, 1997. The Notification, interalia, outlines procedure for public hearing, submission of documents and composition of public hearing panel etc.

(c) Does not arise.

Difference in Air Pollution Level in Delhi

3688. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any marked difference in the level of pollutants and in the suspended particulate matter in the air of Delhi has been noticed after March 15, 1997 the date when pollution norms were enforced rigorously;

(b) if so, the extent of relief in pollution of air since experienced in Delhi; and

(c) the further steps being taken to bring air pollution within the prescribed norms?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The *Central Pollution Control Board is* monitoring air quality at 7 locations in Delhi. The average data of air quality monitoring for March, 1997, show that concentration of particulate matter and carbon monoxide has been decreased after March 15, 1997. (carbon monoxide in monitored at location only) However, no significant reduction has been recorded in concentration of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen.

(c) The measures taken to check air pollution in Delhi include the following:—

(i) Ambient air quality standards have been prescribed for major pollutants for different areas.

(ii) Emission standards have been notified for the major categories of polluting industries.

(iii) Industries have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment within a stipulated time frame and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(iv) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(v) Environmental clearance based on impact assessment and associated studies has been made compulsory for major specific projects.

(vi) Vehicular emission standards have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(vii) Unleaded petrol with catalytic converter fitted vehicles has been introduced in four metropolitan cities.

(viii) Enforcement measures against polluting vehicles were continued by the Transport Department of the Government of NCT Delhi. The number of petrol stations equipped with pollution check facilities for petrol vehicles has been increased to augment the facilities of the Transport Department.

(ix) The Government has approved the first phase of the project for the Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) for Delhi.

(x) To encourage the conversion of in-use vehicles to use cleaner fuels such as compressed natural gas (CNS), the Government has converted a large number of its vehicles to CNS. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Plans to

expand the supply of CNS by the setting up of additional on-line stations along the HBJ pipe-line.

(xi) Low-sulphur diesel is being supplied at all outlets of Delhi since 1.4.1996.

(xii) Free polution check camps were continued to be organised the Transport Department, Government of Delhi and by the automobile manufactures.

Hacking of 53000 Trees by Rajasthan Government

3689. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the "Indian Express" dated the 28th April, 1997 regarding hacking of nearly 53000 trees by the Government of Rajasthan in order to make room for Chappi Dam reservoir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal has been received from the Government of Rajasthan for diversion of 766.00 ha. of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of Chappi Irrigation Project in Jhalawar District. During scrutiny of the proposal, it has come to the notice of the Ministry that 52906 trees have been felled without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. Accordingly, Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Govt. of India, Lucknow, was asked by this Ministry to investigate the circumstances under which the felling of trees was carried out and submit a report to this Ministry. The report of the chief Conservator of Forests (Central) has been received recently and is being examined.

Aftermath of SC's Judgement on Ban of Non-Forest Activities

3690. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact and the aftermath of Supreme Court's recent judgement banning non-forest activities, like mining in forests; and

(b) how do government propose to cope up with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court are consistent with, and strengthen, the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by directing that all non-forest activities, including mining, within a forest area are permissible only with prior approval of the Central Government. State Governments have been directed to stop all such non-forest activities which had been going on without prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) The Central Government has taken action in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

ध्वनि-प्रदूषण संबंधी कानूनों का अनुपालन

3691. **श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या ध्वनि-प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए बनाए गए कानूनों पर देश-भर में उचित ढंग से अनुपालन किया जा रहा है,

(ख) क्या ध्वनि-प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए बनाए गए कानूनों का उचित अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कोई निगरानी व्यवस्था बनायी गई है, और

(ग) ध्वनि-प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा राज्य सरकारों को क्या सहयोग दिया जा रहा है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (प्रो॰ सैफुद्दीन सोज़) (क) पर्यावरण (सुरक्षा) अधिनियम, 1986 के अन्तर्गत शांत क्षेत्रों, औद्योगिक, वाणिज्यिक और आवासीय क्षेत्रों के लिए ध्वनि के स्रोत-विशिष्ट और परिवेशी वायु